

Victim Characteristics

Victims of bullying exhibit similar characteristics that can be used to identify a victim and intervene in his or her life.

- Depression and anxiety
- Increased feelings of sadness/loneliness
- Changes in sleeping/eating patterns
- Loss of interest in activities previously enjoyed
- Health complaints
- Decreased academic achievement
- Increased likelihood of missing, skipping or dropping out of school ■

>> chance of changing that behavior so that law enforcement is not dealing with that child at a four times greater frequency in the future, Harvey said.

"I have a fence around my yard so my dog doesn't run away, and I have the same fence so my kids don't go down the street and get hurt," Harvey said. "[Teachers and SROs] should have the same fence for their students. They should have things their [students] bump into to keep them safe. And the bumping might not be pleasant, it may cause pain, but what's on the other side of

that is worse. So those parameters communicate love — to my dog, my kids and our students.

"We know what's on the other side (of the fence), but they don't, and they are going to grumble and complain about the fence — the parameters we put in their lives — but it's our job to keep them within the safe area," Harvey continued."

KNOWING THE LAW

Kentucky has what are known as anti-bullying laws that require schools to report felony actions that happen in their schools. KRS 158.156, though it never mentions bullying explicitly, makes reporting mandatory for schools, so that bullying-type issues can be accounted for and addressed. However, many law enforcement officers may be unaware that it also says, "An agency receiving a report under subsection (1) of this section shall investigate the matter referred to it. The school board and school personnel shall participate in the investigation at the request of the agency."

"The law doesn't say if you have the manpower, the law says you shall



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